

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please add the Abstract of the Disclosure, as set forth on the separate accompanying sheet. That Abstract of the Disclosure is essentially the same, in content, as the Abstract which is a part of the published PCT application WO 2004/086291 A2. No new matter is being presented by the addition of this Abstract of the Disclosure.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A material, with at least one identification characteristic, is subjected to a qualitative evaluation. A color image of this at least one identification characteristic is taken using an electronic image sensor which produces an electrical signal that is evaluated by an evaluation device. Another electrical signal is obtained from at least one reference image and is stored in a data memory. The second electric signal, has a set point value, for the first electric signal, for at least two set point values contained in the reference image. The first signal is compared to at least two set point values in the second image. The color image of the identification characteristic is tested for deviation from the reference. The identification characteristic is checked for association with at least one aspect of the identification characteristic of the material. The tasks are carried out in a continuous working process being carried out by a machine, such as a printing machine, during a continuous printing process.